



# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert Chanock  
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Dear Bob:

Thank you for having sent me the reprint on the chapter on "Potential sources for return to smallpox" from the WHO monograph on "Smallpox and its Eradication". I've read that reprint with very great interest. The episode of the whitepox isolations in Marennikova's laboratory helps to illuminate why Lvov still adhered to the idea of variola persisting in monkey populations. While the global consensus seems to be that Marennikova's isolations were contaminants, it was not clear from the WHO review that this has yet been accepted by her or the Russian virologists. Have you had any remark from them about that?

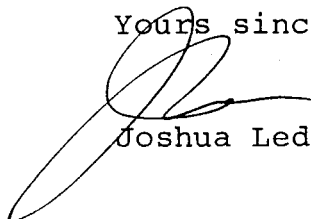
I have now gotten a copy of the entire monograph and one of these days (or should I say years!) I will address myself to the task of reviewing all of it. I was delighted to see that there is such a volume.

Have you settled down on a budget estimate for the complete sequencing of variola? Have you had any further contact with Jim Watson?

Regardless of those costs, it seems to me that meanwhile no time should be lost in cloning of overlapping segments of the variola DNA -- and I am not sure but that that would constitute a sufficient replica of the genome that we would not have to go on to complete sequencing quite so quickly.

Along with this letter is a copy of one I have sent to Chris Anfinsen, although not with any optimism that we can modulate the enthusiasm of those well meaning people. If you get to see Chris personally perhaps you would want to put in a word yourself.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg

10/30. I saw Chris last night.  
Encl. He acknowledges that  
he is not well-informed.

Answered 11/1/89 from 22 11/1/89